

Vol. 01, Issue 3

May 2004 - July 2004

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Retirees this is your newsletter. If you have suggestions please refer them to the Retiree Activities Office 334-953-6725 or Marketing 334-953-7410.

# **Director's Letter**I'm Col. John

Burch, USAF (Ret.), and your Director of Retiree Activities Office (RAO) at Maxwell AFB. I want to personally thank each of the dedicated men and women who volunteer to serve in the RAO. The RAO is an All-Volunteer group which daily mans the phones to answer your questions about benefits and services at Maxwell AFB. Each one of us is a retiree with years of service and a wealth of experience that allows us to be of service to you. Without committed volunteers like ours, it just wouldn't be possible. In this, our 25<sup>th</sup> year of service to Maxwell AFB area retirees, we urgently need you to volunteer a few hours of your time to ensure that we can keep it all going. Call us at (334) 953-6725 or email us at RetireeAffairs@Ma xwell.af.mil.



**Saturday, May 15** 

## FREE! Boat Show FREE! Hotdogs and Sodas



Call 953-3509 for additional information.

#### Sponsored by

(Federal endorsement of sponsor not intended.)

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#### Wing Down Days

42 ABW Down Days will be 11 and 18 Jun 04. There will be no medical or pharmacy services. The MPF and Finance Customer Service will also be closed. The BX and Commissary will be open.

# RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Norman Hall, CMSgt (Ret)

We would like to congratulate CMSgt Norman Hall, USAF (Ret) for being our Maxwell AFB RAO Volunteer of the Year. A native of Birmingham AL, Norm retired in June 1988 from Dover Delaware where he was a Supply Manager. He has been volunteering in the RAO for 2 years. It is through his efforts that we are able to publish our quarterly newsletter and answer the many calls and visitors we receive in the RAO.

If you come in to the Military Personnel Flight (MPF), there is a good chance you will meet Norm, graciously greeting and assisting the retirees that visit customer service. He is always a welcome smiling face. Next time you see him, please congratulate him and say thanks for his outstanding support to our retirees. When not helping out in the RAO or his church, Norm can be found at the golf course or out enjoying his photography.

### **Officials stress need to update DEERS**

Defense Enrollment
Eligibility Reporting System
(DEERS) officials emphasized
the importance of updating
records when personal eligibility
information changes, and noted
several ways to make the
changes. Beneficiaries may
update their DEERS address,
telephone number, and e-mail
address through several
methods:

- DEERS Web site at https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp. It's quick and easy and the best time to update is during non-peak hours.
- Visit your local personnel office with a uniformed service ID card facility. Call ahead for hours of operation and for instructions to update a record for someone who is housebound. Maxwell (MPF) Military Personnel Flight Hours of Operation are: 8:30 a.m. 4 p.m.)
- Fax address changes to 1 (831) 655-8317.
- Call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) Telephone Center at

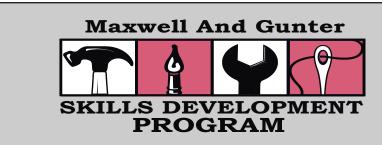
1 (800) 538-9552 or for the Deaf (TTY/TDD): 1 (866) 363-2883. Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Pacific time), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays

 Mail the changed information to the DSO, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771.

To update information other than addresses, beneficiaries need to provide documentation, such as marriage, birth, or death certificates; DD 214s; DD 1172s; etc. Contact the MPF at (334) 953-3604 to find out what documents are needed. Once beneficiaries have the necessary documents, they can present them at the MPF or send a letter or fax to the DSO at the address and number noted above.

Unremarried former spouses should note that they are now listed in DEERS under their own Social Security number and not that of the sponsor.

For more information and related links, go to http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm



Woodworking Class
Ceramics and Framing Classes
Ballroom Dance Classes
Scuba Diving Classes

For more information please call Maxwell Community Center at 953-7370.

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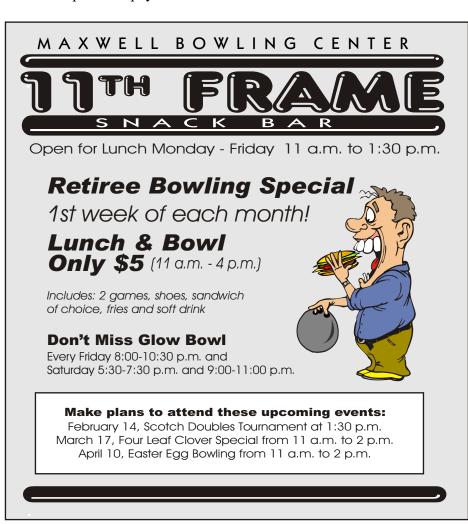
# **DFAS** changes LES to reduce identity theft

Leave and Earning Statements for all service members and Defense Department civilians, and paychecks for military retirees now have more protection over identity theft. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has dropped the first five digits of a person's social security number from all pay statements and checks to guard against identity theft.

This change is for all hard copy leave and earning statements and does not apply to electronic copies of statements found on myPay, the online system for access and control of customers personal pay

information (https://mypay.dfas.mil).

Five years ago, the number of complaints to the FTC was roughly 23,400. By 2001, the rate had more than tripled to about 86,200. Based on figures released in January 2004, the number of complaints of identity theft nearly topped 215,000 for 2003. The Social Security Administration also has taken the same step of eliminating the first five social security numbers on the millions of checks it issues.





Computer Classes FREE for retirees!
6-7 p.m.

Jun 8 & 24 - Word

Jun 10 & 22-Surfing the Web

The classes offer hands on instruction for basic computer skills. Class size is limited to 12 students. RSVP at 953-6725.

# Air Force Times Airman of the Year Nominations

Air Force Times wants your help to recognize one of your fellow airmen as the 2004 Air Force Times Airman of the Year. This annual award, sponsored by USBA and GNC, is unique because nominations come from readers like you. So nominate someone you know whose achievements go beyond the call of duty, or whose selfless service is an example to all. Go to www.airforcetimes.com/airman/no

www.airforcetimes.com/airman/no minate and fill out the short online nomination form explaining why your nominee deserves this award. Please keep the nomination to no more than 300 words.

The Air Force Times Airman of the Year will receive an allexpenses-paid trip to Washington, DC in July to join the other Military Times Service Members of the Year at the formal awards ceremony. May 2004 - July 2004 Page 5

2004 Air Show "Wings of Victory" Scheduled for June

Maxwell/Gunter will host an air show June 5 and 6 commemorating World War II and the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. Themed "Wings of Victory," the show will feature aerial demonstrations, flyovers, static displays, and ground demonstrations.

Slated for display will be numerous WWII "warbirds," as well as aerial demonstrations, the USAF Thunderbirds, and the Army's Golden Knights parachute team.

The Thunderbirds, the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, perform precision aerial maneuvers demonstrating the capabilities of Air Force high performance aircraft to people throughout the world. The squadron exhibits the professional qualities the Air Force develops in the people who fly, maintain and support these aircraft. The Thunderbirds Squadron is an Air Combat Command unit composed of eight pilots (including six demonstration pilots), four support officers, three civilians and more than 130 enlisted personnel performing in 25 career fields. The Thunderbirds were officially

activated June 1, 1953, at the 3600th Air Demonstration team at Luke AFB AZ Their first aircraft was the straight-winged F-84G Thunderiet, a combat fighter-bomber that had seen action in Korea. Early in 1955 the team transitioned to the sweptwinged F-84F Thunderstreak.

In June 1956, the team moved to its current home at Nellis AFB. At the same time the Thunderbirds traded the veteran F-84 for the world's first supersonic fighter, the F-100 Super Sabre – an aerial platform that would serve the Thunderbirds for 13 years. Early in 1983, the Thunderbirds reinstituted their traditional role of demonstrating the Air Force' front-line fighter capabilities. Transition to the F-16A allowed the team to retain manpower and fuel efficiency while demonstrating to spectators the latest in fighter technology.

The U.S. Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights, perform precision aerial maneuvers while falling toward earth at speeds reaching 120 miles per hour, then



landing exactly center on their target, a trademark move.

Now in their 43rd year of entertaining with their amazing aerial skills, the men and women that make up the "Golden

Knights" continue to show audiences around the world why they are considered the world's premiere parachute team.

> Stationed at the "Home of the Airborne," Fort Bragg NC, the 90 soldiers that make up the "Black and Gold

Demonstration Teams" spend more than 230 days a year entertaining more than 12 million people at air shows and special events around the world. In 1960, the Team officially adopted the stage name "Golden Knights" because of their winning record of gold medals and conquest of the skies.

The Thunderbirds and the Golden Knights are slated to perform both days of the air show. Don't miss the FREE show... Come early and be prepared to spend the day. Refreshments and souvenirs will be available for purchase.



#### **GOE Prints Available**

Gathering of Eagles is an annual event hosted by the students of ACSC featuring 16 air and space legends, "Eagles," who inspire a new generation of military leaders. The 23rd Gathering of Eagles, The Generations of Greatness, is taking place June 2-5, 2004.

Signed and limited-edition prints are available, with proceeds contributing to the program. To purchase a print please contact Major Janelle Costa at 953-6189 or e-mail Major Conley at william.conley@maxwell.af.mil

#### Air Show Schedule: (Sat & Sun)

(Times are approximate and subject to change.) 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.. . Thunderbirds Engine Run 11 a.m.... Opening & Golden Knights Flag Jump 11:10 a.m. . . . . . . . AT-6 Aero 11:25 a.m. . . . . . . . AFRC Jet /car 12:37 - 1 p.m. . . . . . AT&T F-86 demonstration 1:05-1:15 p.m..... Jet Car and AT-6 "race" 1:30.-2:10 p.m. . . . . . Golden Knights Full demonstration 2:10 - 2:50 p.m..... "Aeroshell" team 3 p.m. ..... USAF Thunderbirds

#### **Entertainment Schedule:**

60th D-Day Anniversary

#### Saturday

Noon - 1 p.m . . . . . . Air National Guard 1 p.m. -2 p.m. . . . . . . Capitol Sounds 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. . . . . . Air National Guard (Times are approximate and subject to change.)

#### Sunday

11 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. . . Air National Guard 11:45 -1:15 p.m. . . . . . Sweet Young 'uns 1:15 - 1:45 p.m..... MAXXBRASS 1:45 - 3 p.m. . . . . . . Sweet Young 'uns (Times are approximate and subject to change.)

Thank you to our Sponsors: GOLD: Pfizer Inc., Knology, WCOV Channel 20, Hyundai, Nextel Partners, Montgomery Chamber of Commerce-Wright Flyers, N-Touch Communications, AT&T SILVER: Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Geico **BRONZE:** Hodges Warehouse and Logistics, First Command Financial, Primary Eye Care Associates, Prattville Chamber of Commerce, Air Force Association (Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.)

#### **Shuttle Bus Service** Available Saturday & Sunday

9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

(Patterson Field to Maxwell and/or Maxwell AFB to Patterson Field) 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Maxwell to Patterson Field only

#### **Commissary & BX**

The Commissary and BX will be open during the air show. Parking will be very limited. In addition to food vendors on the flight line, the BX food court will be open. Please use Gunter Commissary and **AAFES** shopette to avoid severe parking congestion expected at Maxwell on Jun 5th and 6th.

#### **Handicapped Parking**

Handicapped parking will be available to those with decals.

#### Restrictions

Backpacks and coolers will not be allowed on flight line.

#### **WW II Veterans**

If you are a WWII or Korean War veteran, we would love to have you participate in the Air Show. Please give Janice a call at (334) 953-7000. All retirees who would like to volunteer in this show are encouraged to give us a call.

#### WWII D-Day Veteran to be **Honored by Golden Knights**

On the 60th Anniversary of his D-Day jump, 1SG Charlie D. Turner (Ret) 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division will be honored by the Golden Knights during the opening ceremonies, on Saturday, June 5 at the Wings of Victory Air Show.

#### Web Updates

Flying schedule updates will be posted here, as well parking plans, and other pertinent information. The web site is http://airshow.maxwell.af.mil/

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#### **House Passes Budget Resolution**

The House passed the FY2005 Budget Resolution by a three-vote margin. See the vote at http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/roll092.xml. House SBP champion Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL) held discussions with Budget Committee chairman Jim Nussle (R-IA) and Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) on the need to make sure the House passes a Survivor Benefit Plan fix this year.

In the hours before the final Budget Resolution vote, both leaders reaffirmed to Rep. Miller their intent to find a way to get this done. Although the Budget Resolution doesn't identify a specific funding source, it includes a "reserve fund" placeholder designated for this purpose. This provides flexibility to identify the funding source in weeks ahead so the Armed Services Committee can put an SBP fix in the FY2005 Defense Authorization Act.

#### **AARP Driver Safety Program**

AARP now offers a Driver Safety Program especially designed for drivers who are age 50 and older. Participants learn how to avoid driving hazards and the training qualifies motorists in most states for auto insurance discounts (consult your insurance agent).

The program has a minimal course fee and no tests! If interested, call 1-888-AARP-NOW (888-227-7669) or point your Internet browser to http://www.aarp.org/drive.



#### **Information** Tickets & Travel

Movie Tickets Rave \$5.00 **Carmike \$5.25** 

The 4th Saturday of each month for Casino Magic trips to Biloxi!

Call ITT at 953-6351

KEY MAXWELL PHO	NE NUMBERS
AAFES (BX/PX)	(334) 834-5946
Casualty Affairs	
Commissary	
DEERS, Customer Support	
Finance, Customer Service	(334) 953-3288
Legal Office	(334) 953-2786
Pass and ID	
Retiree Activities	(334) 953-6725
Survivor Benefits	(334) 953-8472
TRICARE (Maxwell)	
TRICARE INFO Line	
Veterans Affairs	(334) 242-5077
VA Hotline	. ,

Cut out and save for future reference.

## **TMC Testifies on Personnel**

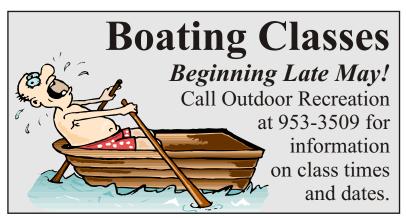
The House Armed Services Total Force Subcommittee held a hearing on active duty, Guard and Reserve, and retired personnel on compensation issues. Deputy Director of Government Relations Col Lee Lange, USMC (Ret), along with MCPO Joe Barnes, USN (Ret) of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), and Erin Harting of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, (EANGUS), testified on the views of The Military Coalition (TMC). TMC witnesses urged attention to the following:

- Ending the SBP age-62 annuity reduction-TMC's top priority this year for retirees and survivors;
- Increased service end strengths consistent with dramatic increases in operations requirements;

- A minimum 3.5% pay increase in next year's Defense Authorization Act; continuing support for military family readiness programs;
- · Improved health coverage for Guard and Reserve members; and
- Reduced retirement age for Guard and Reserve

Lange urged the Subcommittee to make funding for improved survivor benefits a priority. "These widows have waited long enough. They need our help now," he said. The formal TMC testimony can be viewed on MOAA's Web site at http://www.moaa.org/Legislative/Testimony/TMCT estimonyMar242004.pdf

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#### **Survivor Benefit Plan Notes**

Survivor Benefit Plan officials offer the following reminders to members of the military retiree community:

- The SBP "Paid Up" provision which allows retirees to stop paying premiums after 30 years of premium payment and reaching age 70 does not go into effect until Oct. 1, 2008.
- In the event of the death of an Air Force retiree, the next of kin should call the Air Force Casualty

Assistance Office at toll free (877) 353-6807 and DFAS at (800) 269-5170.

- A retiree has one year to add a newly acquired spouse if not married on the date of retirement.
- Remarriage options (increase base amount, terminate coverage, or resume previous coverage) are available when spouse coverage has been suspended. It's important to contact DFAS immediately at (800) 321 1080 upon marriage to ensure the time for change does not expire.

Articles appearing in this newsletter may have appeared in newsletters received by the RAO from other military facilities. They have been reprinted for your benefit. Some may have been reworded because we want to give the most current news and information. We would like to thank the other RAOs for sharing their newsletters. We have found each one has information that all retirees need to know.

<u>DISCLAIMER</u>: Opinions expressed by writers of this newsletter are their own and should not be construed to

be the official position or policy of DOD, USAF, or Maxwell AFB, AL. The RAO published this newsletter to inform AF retirees and their family members of changes in legislation, defense policies and other matters affecting their military rights, benefits and other obligations. It contains information about Maxwell AFB and the local retiree community. While every effort is made to verify information in this newsletter, the RAO "volunteer" staff cannot guarantee the accuracy of information furnished by outside agencies.







Visit our new retiree website at: **www.maxwell.af.mil/42abw/rao/.** Let us know what you think. Call Retiree Activities Office at 334-953-6725 or Marketing & Publicity at 334-953-7410 regarding this newsletter.

42 MSS/CVR Building 804 50 Lemay Plaza South Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6010



# **Cypress Tree Golf Course and Maxwell AFB BX**

Purchase a Beginner Golf Lesson Package, receive 10% Off

a set of starter clubs at the BX

Buy a dozen
Titlest Golf Balls
& Receive
ITO 12

**Hoa 10 bnuoa A** 

Call 953-2209 for lessons and tee times!